

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           **METHOD AND SYSTEM USING HARDWARE ASSISTANCE FOR**  
            **TRACING INSTRUCTION DISPOSITION INFORMATION**

          A method, system, apparatus, or computer program  
product uses a processor mechanism that generates a  
10   disposition indicator that reflects whether an  
instruction has been partially or fully executed by the  
processor, i.e., whether the results of the instruction  
are committed. The disposition indicator is then  
captured in conjunction with other instruction trace  
15   information for subsequent post-processing. For most  
instructions, a predicate register value controls whether  
an instruction is partially or fully executed; for these  
instructions, the disposition indicator equals the value  
of the predicate register. For other instructions that  
20   are not predicated or cannot be predicated, the  
disposition indicator is set when the instruction is  
executed. A series of indicators for a series of  
instructions may be stored in a disposition trace buffer  
upon the completion of each instruction; the disposition  
25   trace buffer may be located within the processor or  
within memory.